

CYO TIPS TO HELP THE CYO COACH BE THE BEST HE/SHE CAN BE AND HOW TO DEVELOP A GOOD COACH/OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP DURING YOUR GAMES

Our goal here is to give tips and ideas to the coaches in CYO to help them be the best coach they can be, by inspiring kids to know God, love God, and serve God through athletics. Also to teach coaches how to develop a good Coach/ Official relationship during the games. Most coaches want to get along with the officials and they do most of these things naturally. But there are some coaches unfortunately have winning as their top priority, and that at times makes the coach a different person. This difference contradicts the CYO mission statements, which causes them to teach things that are not what CYO kids should be learning. If as a CYO coach you can somehow grasp that your coaching should be all about the KIDS!! and that everything you do during your practices and games need to be based on good role model behavior things that fosters respect and dignity to everyone. When that is accomplished you are now on the right path to really have success, and that success doesn't mean you win all your games. It is based on teaching your kids to have fun playing the sport, teaching them how to win and lose with dignity, helping them to learn how to be good teammates, and future leaders in our world. Also teaching them how to Know, Love, and Serve God while playing the Sport, than you will know what true success is at the end of each season.

IDEAS ON HOW TO DEVELOP A GOOD COACH/OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP DURING YOUR GAMES

1. Know the Rules, when you only know part of the rule and base your discussion on the wrong part of the rule, that just creates more confrontation, and you lose the respect of the official. If you are correct and explain your concern in a civilize way, the outcome usually turns out in a way that builds a Good Christian Relationship based on mutual respect. Your players notice this, and try to imitate the same good Christian behavior with the officials as well. That is a blessing you have created and others will notice and appreciate.
2. Look at how you approach communication situations in your games. How you interact with Officials will determine the kind of response you receive from the official. So look at your tone of voice, your body language, the way you come at the official. Is it aggressive and out of control? Is it going to make the game or situation better, or make it worse? If you see that it is making things worse, than you need to stop and reflect, and look at more positive ways to deal with these communication situations. When you make it a more positive interaction, by not yelling, or being judgmental, but more of a working together kind of thing it is a Win! Win for you the official, players, and the fans. If the coach is out of control, and yelling all the time the FANS or PARENTS imitate the same bad behavior. Now the Christ like behavior we want to display to the kids in CYO is pushed way down on the priority list, and that is how the abusive out of control, I don't care for the other person kind of thinking, gets amplified, and soon becomes the new NORMAL. We can all agree that the new Normal is not good for athletics, not good for CYO athletes, and not good for the parents. Please really reflect on this idea, when I have met coaches like this in CYO who communicate calmly, and respectfully, it changes everything. I am more inclined to listen to him/or her when they have a question, and I really enjoy my CYO officiating experience and want to come back and officiate more CYO games.

3. Learn how to ask specific questions in a positive way when you want to know why things happened the way they did, or didn't. When you hear the comment from the official MOVE ON! That means don't keep on asking the same question over and over again. That is how you get a Technical Foul from the official.

4. Don't let your ego get in your way, where you continue to want to be right, and you won't let it go. You focus on that one thing and lose sight of your real reason for being a coach. That is you need to get back to coaching your kids, not officiating the game.

6. Listen to Warnings from the officials, it will help you in the long run. If the official says," that is enough coach!" Or, "I have heard enough." Know that if you say another word you will probably get a technical foul, and then have to sit the rest of the game. As I said before LET IT GO!!

7. Learn how to control *your anger outburst*. *First you have to admit you have a problem, than you can do some things to help change the bad behavior. Here are some ideas you can try: The first thing I would do is Pray to God for help in changing the anger outbursts. You could refocus your priorities, because if winning is the only reason you are coaching you will not be successful in the eyes of your God and your peers. There will be many blessings you could receive, that are being missed because of the focus on the wrong thing. Have someone video tape you coaching, look for the things that trigger your anger, and find a way to ignore it or refocus the thought on something more positive that will help you, and your kids. Sometimes talking with someone you respect that coaches, can help give you perspective, on how they control their anger during games. Role play communication scenarios with another person, learn better ways to get your point across without yelling and belittling officials. I know this method works because it helped me as a basketball official learn how to communicate in a non-confrontational way, and my need to call technical fouls went way down. This can work for you as well by practicing this in front of a mirror, it helps you be better on the court, to the point where you are able to consistently communicate in a non -confrontational way. Than those blessings I mentioned before will be given to you in bunches, and you will see that coaching is a way to bring kids closer to God by the way you coach in CYO, and the way you live your life serving God!!!*

8. *Thank the officials after the game so that you develop a reputation that you care for all the kids in CYO, and all the people involved in the game. People notice those kind of things, they see you are teaching the kids to respect and thank people for working with them, and that, when the game is over, you should be grateful for being able to play, coach, and officiate the game. You as the coach can now go home and reflect on all the ways you glorified God today being a CYO coach.*

9. *Control your assistant coaches, make sure they sit and just coach. When they get involved with officiating the game, they are losing their focus on helping the players do the correct things on the floor. Plus they get you fired up and than the parents. Now the problem escalates.*

10. *Talk to your parents before the season be positive and work real hard to get them on the CYO Mission Statement band wagon, where we all are responsible for developing Christlike values and behaviors at these games, and emphasize they are there to support all the kids, and officials in CYO. That yelling and screaming from the stands is not what we as a team want to be known as, and will not be tolerated by me as your coach. We want to help God's Kingdom grow and we do that by the way we act at these sporting events. Tell your parents we are all part of this TEAM, players, coaches, and parents, and we are all working as one to accomplish our GOALS. We will be supportive, caring and forgiving to any team member who is not cooperating with our desire to be Christ Like. But if it continues to the point where it is embarrassing, to other parents, and our parish I will be forced to talk to you about not being on the TEAM. This is what I did when I coached in CYO, I worked real hard on getting the parents to buy into this thinking, and I kept emphasizing to them that this experience in athletics is ALL ABOUT THE KIDS. I want you to help me teach these kids all the good things they can learn from playing sports. How to be a leader, respect your opponents, win with dignity, learn the skills of the sport you are playing and above having FUN! In all the years I coached in CYO this worked for me every year. I never had to talk to any of my parents about bad behavior, and I worked extremely hard to not yell at my players, to make practice and the games Fun, and above all respect the officials.*

11. *What do you do if you get an official who is bad, not hustling, and doesn't enforce the CYO rules?*

A. Tell the Site Director your concern. He/She will hopefully solve the problem

B. Notify the CYO office when you have a bad official, if it is done the right way they will no longer officiate in CYO. shortage or not.

C. Sometimes you have to deal with it because that is all the officials available, and getting technical fouls and ejected won't help or make it better.

Both teams have to deal with it, keep coaching, and try your best to get through it.

MGBY – Nick Creme – Lead Instructor of the CYO Referee Academy